

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

"A noiseless revolution," said "The Philadelphia Press" of yesterday, "will take place in the city this morning, of which very few of our citizens will know anything, but which will work a great change in the lives of all who take part in it. Seven thousand little women in the public schools will put aside books and slate, and for the day give their brains a rest, and instead, set their little fingers to work. By the new ruling of Superintendent McAlister this whole day is to be devoted to teaching the girls to sew. This seems a trifling matter; but it is, we hope, the entering wedge of the industrial system into our public schools. When we remember how many of these girls come from homes where they are taught the womanly arts of keeping themselves and their surroundings decent, we can easily estimate the value of this school training. Very few women among the poorer classes are able to make or mend a garment unless they earn their living by the kind of work. Half of their earnings go to buy ready-made clothes. To add to the system which teaches every daughter of a laboring man who can afford no such tuition, no matter what her ability or probable future, science, mathematics and a smattering of Latin; but, as she is to be in all probability the wife and mother of laboring men, we suspect that a knowledge of dress and cook-making, and even common patching, will stand her in better stead than either of all of them put together. We hope a day in each week may be set aside for this work."

The question of voluntary prayers has come up again at Harvard. A number of students have taken the matter in hand and propose to make every effort to bring about the result they desire. They intend to write to all the Harvard clubs in the country, urging upon them the advisability of making the attendance at chapel optional. The following pledge is also being circulated among the undergraduates: "We, the undersigned members of Harvard University, believing that any system of compulsory religion is radically bad, do hereby agree to take any concerted action that may seem advisable which will harmonize with the system of compulsory prayer now in vogue at this college. We will begin with the usual petition, and that failing, follow it up with decisive concerted action. And furthermore, we pledge ourselves when alumnae of this college to use all our influence to destroy this pernicious system, and will cast our votes for overseas accordingly."

Industrial education is making great strides in the West. President W. H. Scott, of the Toledo Board of Industrial Trustees, in speaking of the Toledo Industrial School, said the other day: "I am more than satisfied with the work thus far. It goes beyond our expectations. The originator of the plan in Toledo was Mr. Scott's father, who set apart a large plot of land before his death, to provide means for carrying on the work. When his death occurred the sons continued the work, but as the hard times came on the project was abandoned for a time. When the finances of the country were again in a stable condition it occurred to Mr. Scott and the trustees to place the fund in the hands of the city under the provisions of the act passed some time before for the benefit of a school of this kind, which was already in existence. Twelve trustees were appointed among whom are numbered ex-president Hayes, Governor Headly, the Mayor of Toledo, President Scott, of the Library Board, and others. The city thus takes charge of the institution, and provides for its maintenance according to the original plan. In September, 1885, it is expected that the building, containing plenty of room and having the conveniences of steam and water power, will be completed, into which the present school will be moved."

The next session of the Indiana College Association will be held in Indianapolis on December 20.

General William H. H. Beadle, Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction for Dakota, has prepared his biennial report, which shows that the educational interests of the Territory are in a flourishing condition. The aggregate expenditures for public education during the past year amounted to \$1,748,000.

The following are the subjects for the thirty-first Clark prize exhibition in oratory at Hamilton College: "The Railway in American Politics"; "Shakespeare's Representations of the Human Will"; "Blithedale and Cromwell"; "The Battle of Monmouth"; "The Mission of Thomas Carlyle"; "The Power of a State as Determined by Manufacture and Commerce." The following are the other contests in which the students will compete: Twenty-third Pray Medal oration: "Matthew Arnold's Gospel of Culture"; Twenty-second Head Prize oration: "Alexander Hamilton and the Presidential Election of 1800"; Thirteenth Kirkland Prize oration: "Conservatism and Radicalism in the Political History of England"; "The Influence of the Various Political Parties on Our National History." Sophomore essays: "Othello and the Winter's Tale"; "New-England Life in Fiction and Poetry." Freshman essays: "Noted Earthquakes"; "The Historic Associations of New-Orleans."

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